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Hoang

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(54) **UV BULB CONFIGURATION**

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H01J 5/50 (2006.01)
F21V 23/06 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **F21V 23/06** (2013.01)

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USPC D13/134, 136
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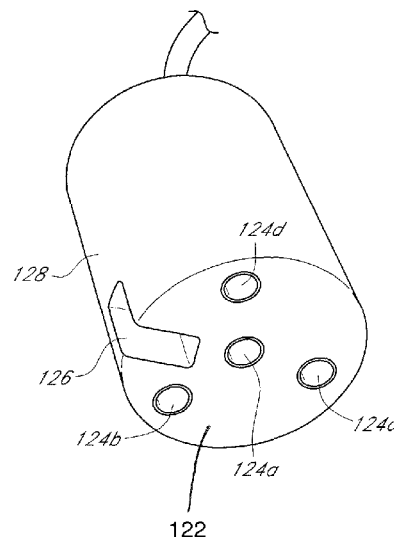
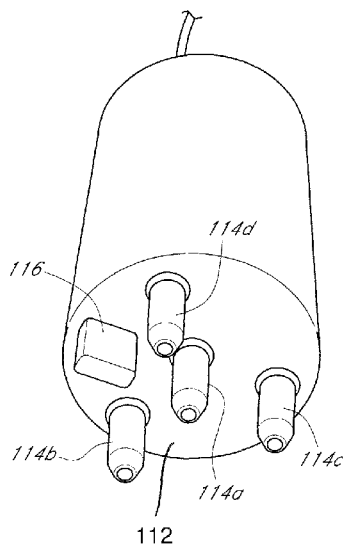
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A UV light and socket assembly having a pin and hole arrangement with a central pin and corresponding hole with peripheral pins and corresponding holes arranged approximately 120 degrees from each other from the central pin and opening. The light and socket assembly including a locating projection and corresponding locating opening that receives the projection that is positioned so as to be aligned with one of the peripheral pin and openings and the central pin and opening.

9 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



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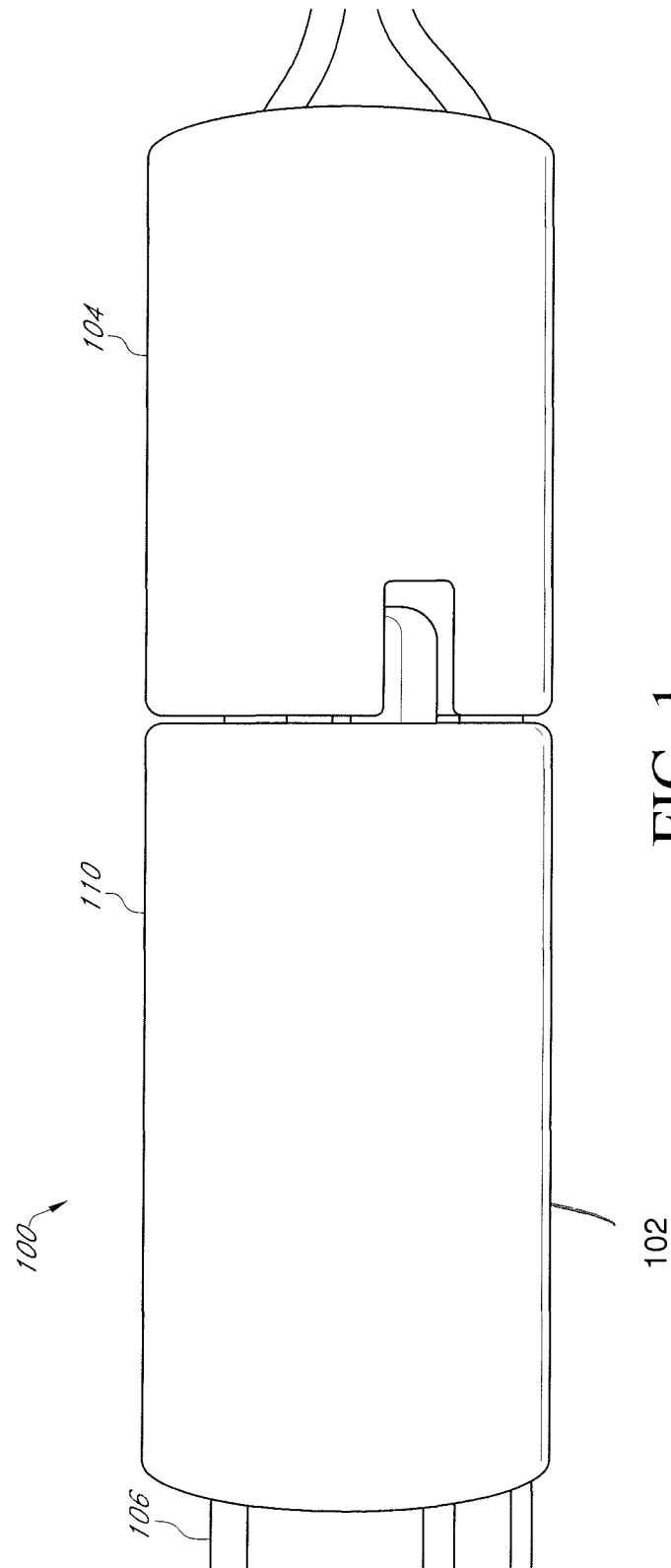


FIG. 1

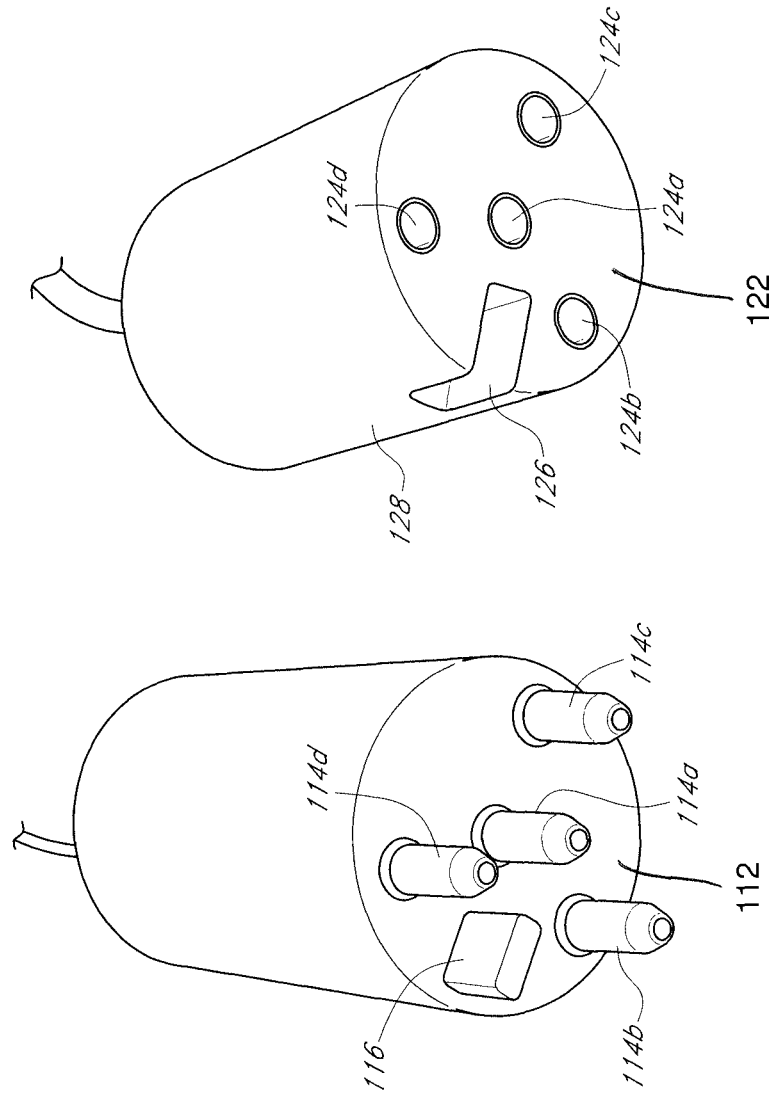


FIG. 2

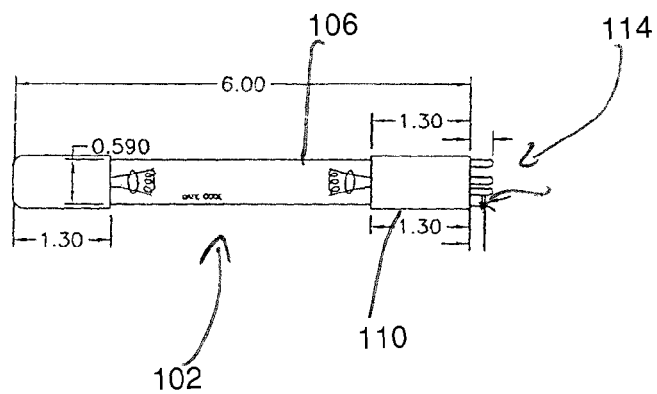


FIG. 3A

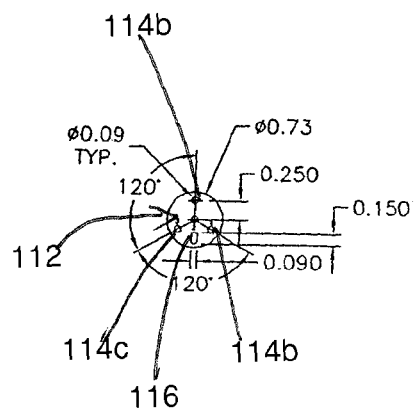


FIG. 3B

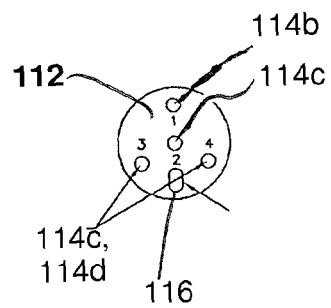


FIG. 3C

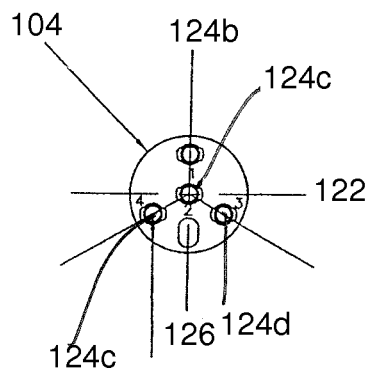


FIG. 4A

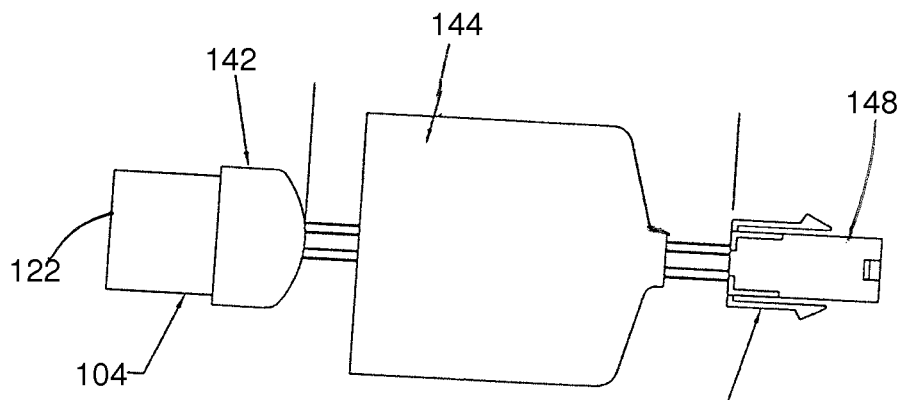


FIG. 4B

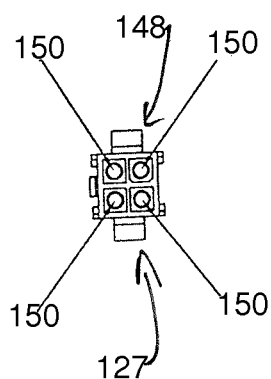


FIG. 4C

1

UV BULB CONFIGURATION

PRIOR APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/822,247 filed May 10, 2013 entitled UV BULB CONFIGURATION which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to UV bulbs and sockets and, in particular, concerns a UV bulb configuration that is easy to assembly and is securely retained.

2. Description of the Related Art

UV light sources are commonly used in many different applications including disinfecting water and the like. Generally, the light source includes a sealed tube that contains the UV element and the UV element is attached to a base that has pins. The pins are then inserted into a socket mounted in a frame of the device using the UV light source. Power is then supplied to the socket having openings that receive the pins which then powers the UV light source. The location of the pins and openings can, of course, be switched between bulb and socket.

One difficulty that occurs with UV light sources is that there can be misalignment of the pins of the UV bulb assembly and the openings in the socket that receive the UV bulb assembly. To address this issue, various different pin configurations have been developed such as those disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 7,604,505 to Zayas and assigned to Light Sources Inc. In this patent, the pins and openings are formed on different levels which require correct orientation of the bulb with respect to the sockets for correct insertion.

While this configuration can address the issue of misalignment of the pins and openings, it is difficult to assembly and requires additional material. Moreover, the raised levels are formed of ceramic material which increases the potential of the elements breaking and thus ruining the bulb or socket.

Hence, there is a continuing need for a UV bulb and socket assembly that inhibits misalignment but does not have an increased risk of breakage.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The aforementioned needs are satisfied by the design of the present invention which, in one aspect, comprises a UV light assembly having a socket having a circular face with a central opening located at substantially the axis of the circular face. The socket includes peripheral openings that are located adjacent the outer circumference of the circular central face at approximately 120 degree intervals. A locating opening is also formed at the outer circumference of the circular face of the socket. The assembly further comprises a UV light bulb that has a base with circular face of substantially the same dimensions as the circular face of the socket with four pins extending outward therefrom. The pins include a centrally located pin located at substantially the axis of the circular face so as to mate with the central opening in the socket. The socket further includes peripheral pins that are located adjacent the outer circumference of the circular central face at approximately 120 degree intervals to be inserted into the peripheral openings located at 120 degree intervals of the circular face of the socket. The circular face of the base also includes a locating protrusion that is located adjacent the outer periphery of the circular face and is dimensioned so as

2

to fit into the locating opening formed in the outer periphery of the circular face of the socket.

The use of a central pin and opening combined with peripheral pins and openings that are evenly spaced about the faces of the socket and base of the UV light bulb creates a strong force between the bulb and socket. The use of a single peripheral locating protrusion and opening further prevents misalignment. As the circular faces are planar, the risk of damage to the base and socket is reduced. Indeed, the only protrusion that extends outward that has a greater risk of breakage is the locating protrusion which wouldn't prevent the light bulb from being used.

These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is an assembled view of a UV light socket and bulb in a connected configuration;

FIG. 2 is a disassembled view of the UV light socket and bulb of FIG. 1; and

FIGS. 3A-3C are detailed views of the UV light bulb and connection assembly of the UV light socket and bulb of FIG. 1;

FIGS. 4A-4C are detailed views of the socket of the UV light socket and bulb of FIG. 1; and

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ONE EMBODIMENT

Reference will now be made to the drawings, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout. Referring initially to FIG. 1, an assembly 100 comprising a UV light bulb 102 and a socket 104 is shown. The UV light bulb 102 includes a glass tube 106 that contains a UV radiation source that radiates UV energy when the source receives power. The UV bulb is also shown in FIG. 3A. The UV light bulb 102 also includes a cylindrical base 110 that is generally circular in dimension. The cylindrical base 110 is preferably made of ceramic and provides insulation to the pins and conductors positioned therein. The UV light bulb 102 and the socket 104 mate with each other in the manner shown in FIG. 1 so that electrical power is provided to the light via the socket 104. FIG. 2 shows the faces of the light 102 and the socket 104 in greater detail and will also be described in greater detail below.

More specifically, as shown in FIGS. 2 and 3A-3C, the base 110 has a circular face 112 that has a central pin 114a and three peripheral pins 114b-d. The central pin 114a is located at substantially the axis of the circular face 112. The peripheral pins 114b-d are located adjacent the outer circumference of the circular face 112 and are located approximately 120 degrees from each other. The circular face 112 also includes a locating protrusion 116 that is also located adjacent the outer circumference of the face 112.

As shown in FIGS. 2 and 3B, the socket 104 has a circular face 122 that has a central opening 124a and three peripheral openings 124b-d. The central opening 124a is located at substantially the axis of the circular face 122. The peripheral openings 124b-d are located adjacent the outer circumference of the circular face 122 and are located approximately 120 degrees from each other. The circular face 122 also includes a locating opening 126 that is also located adjacent the outer circumference of the face 122.

As shown in FIG. 1, the openings 124a-d of the socket 104 receive the pins 114a-d of the base 110 of the light bulb 102

3

to power the light bulb **102**. The openings **124a-d** of the socket **104** also includes metal contacts **125a-d** that engage with the pins **114a-d** to provide electrical contact therebetween. The locating protrusion **116** is also received in the locating opening **126** to prevent misalignment of the pins. Both the locating protrusion **116** and the locating opening **126** are positioned about the periphery of the faces **112**, **122** so as to be aligned with the central pin **114a** or opening **124a** and a peripheral pin **114b** or opening **124b**. Hence, the locating protrusion **116** and opening **126** are located approximately 60 degrees offset from each of the surrounding pins **114** and openings **124**.

As shown in the Figures, the locating opening **126** is open on the circular face **122** of the socket **104** and also is open along a side wall **128** of the socket **104**. This reduces the frictional engagement between the locating protrusion **116** and the opening **126**. As is also shown, the protrusion **116** and opening **126** extend radially outward. In one specific implementation, the circular faces **112**, **122** are 0.73 or 0.728 inches in diameter and the protrusion **116** is approximately 0.150 inches long and 0.090 inches wide and extends out approximately 0.200 inches from the face **112** of the cylindrical base **110** of the light bulb **102**. In another implementation, the protrusion is approximately 0.180 inches long extending radially outward on the surface **112**, and is approximately 0.120 inches wide. The edges are radiused at 0.040 to 0.055 inches. The protrusion extends outward from the surface **112** a distance of approximately 0.20 inches. The pins **114a-114d** are approximately 0.09 inches in diameter and extend outward from the face approximately 0.3 inches. The opening **126** has corresponding dimensions and the base is preferably made of ceramic or other equivalent material.

The socket **104** is dimensioned to receive the pins **114** and protrusion **116**. As shown in FIGS. 4A and 5A, the opening **126** is typically 0.180 inches long, 0.120 inches wide and 0.3 inches deep. Thus, the dimensions of the opening **126** is greater than the dimensions of the protrusion **116** to facilitate the protrusion being positioned within the opening **126**. As is also discussed above, the side wall of the opening **126** is open which further facilitates positioning of the protrusion **116** within the opening **126**.

FIGS. 4B and 4C illustrate additional components of a socket assembly **140** that provides power to the light bulb **102**. As shown, there is the socket **104** that is preferably made of ceramic and has a cushion **142** positioned on the end **127** opposite the face **122**. Wires **142** extend out of the end opposite the face **122** and into the cover **144** that receives the socket **104**. The cover **144** is preferably made of a resilient material, such as rubber and the like, and secures the socket **104** and the light bulb **106** in a known manner. The wires then extend into a connector **148** that has pin openings **150** (FIG. 5C) to permit the socket **104** to be connected to a power supply. The connector **148** can be any of a number of standard connectors known in the art.

FIG. 5C illustrates the end **127** of the socket **104** from which the wires **142** protrude. As shown, there are a plurality of holes that align with the openings **124a-d** from which the

4

wires extend outward. The wires **142** are preferably electrically coupled to the contacts **125a-d** in the interior of the socket **104** in a manner known in the art.

Although the foregoing discussion has shown, illustrated and described one embodiment of the present invention, it will be apparent that various changes, modifications and alternative uses to the disclosed embodiment may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Hence, the present invention should not be limited to the foregoing discussion but should be defined by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A UV light and socket assembly comprising:

a UV light having an end casing with an circular end face, wherein the UV light has four pins, with a first pin located at a central axis of the end face and the remaining three pins being positioned about the periphery of the end face spaced approximately 120 degrees from each other wherein the end face includes a projection that is aligned with a line that extends through one of the peripheral pins and the central pin; and

a socket that has an end face with four pin openings positioned to receive the four pins and a projection opening that is positioned to receive the projection.

2. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the four pin openings includes a central opening and three peripheral openings and wherein the pin openings are spaced about the periphery of the end face of the socket approximately 120 degrees from each other.

3. The assembly of claim 2, wherein the four pin openings and the projection opening are larger than the pins and the projection of the UV light.

4. The assembly of claim 3, wherein the circular faces are approximately 0.73 inches in diameter and the protrusion **116** is approximately 0.150 inches long and 0.090 inches wide and extends out approximately 0.200 inches from the face **112** of the cylindrical base **110** of the light bulb **102**.

5. The assembly of claim 4, wherein protrusion opening is typically 0.180 inches long, 0.120 inches wide and 0.3 inches deep.

6. The assembly of claim 4, wherein the pins are approximately 0.09 inches in diameter and extend outward from the face approximately 0.3 inches.

7. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the socket has a side wall in addition to the end face and the projection opening is open on both the end face and the side wall.

8. The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a cushion positioned on the socket, a cover and a connection wherein a plurality of wires extends from a second face of the socket opposite the front face and are connected to the connector.

9. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the cushion is positioned over the second face of the socket and wherein the cover is also positioned over the second face and the cushion.

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